



## Pool Maintenance Best Management Practices Guide

The Cobb County Drought Response Plan has been modified for Spring and Summer 2008 to allow the topping off of swimming pools with county or public water as needed for routine operation. This measure became effective on April 1, 2008. When preparing your pool to open, the pool may not be drained for cleaning and maintenance purposes. The removal of debris and chemical treatment should be used to address these pre-opening concerns. However, if cleaning and chemical treatment does not appear to be a viable option, a variance must be obtained from the Cobb County Water System (770-419-6244) before the pool can be drained and refilled. Pools may be drained and refilled for structural issues, leaks, resurfacing, or liner replacement.

Even though pools will be allowed to open this season, North Georgia will still be in the midst of a historic drought. Though the day-to-day use of a swimming pool consumes a certain amount of water, there are some steps that can be taken to minimize the overall consumption of water throughout the operating season:

- Except for times of extremely high contamination levels (i.e. fecal accidents), do not bypass the filter and waste water to sanitary sewer or other sub-surface disposal systems.
- Backwash filters only when necessary (according to pressure, not time...typically, 7-10 p.s.i. above the starting pressure). Do not leave the filter unattended while backwashing and stop backwashing once the water is clear in the sight glass.
- Check for leaks and repair any that exist. Perform a "bucket test" on the pool to help determine if water loss is from a leak or from environmental factors (i.e., evaporation or splash out).
- Plug the overflow line when the pool is in use to prevent surge water from flowing down the drain or onto the ground.
- If possible, cover the pool when it is not in use to help prevent evaporation.
- Turn off decorative water features (bubblers, fountains, waterfalls, etc.). Limit or discontinue operation of water slides and mushrooms.
- Decrease pool/spa heater temperatures to help lower evaporation.
- Do not overfill the pool. Keep the water level no higher than 3 inches above the bottom of the skimmer opening. Remember to turn off the fill line after the correct water level has been reached.
- Install low flow toilets, urinals, aerators and shower heads in bathhouse facilities.
- Only wash off decks and walkways when they cannot be cleaned effectively by other means.

By keeping water conservation in mind, we can maintain a balance between the protection of our natural resources and healthy outdoor recreation.